their representations without careful examination in consultation with the Director of Industries and Commerce, the further issue of these stakenet licences were stayed until Government were able to pass final orders on those representations."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is there any Government Order restricting the number of stakenet licences to be issued? On the floor of the Assembly, when Sri C. Rajagopalachari was the Chief Minister, it was said that the Government Order would be strictly followed for the benefit of fishermen. That being so, may I know what was the necessity for the Director of Industries to stay the issue of licences? Has this been done as a result of some representations made by some Congress leaders? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, there was a Government Order in accordance with the decision previously taken by the Government restricting the issue of stakenet licences. Since then, there have been representations, not from Congress leaders, but from fishermen who pointed out and represented that they were affected by the enforcement of that Order. They maintained that they were also entitled to receive consideration from the Government. Therefore, the Government have been examining that question. The hon. Member is aware that when I was in Kozhikode last time, I discussed with him and also the representatives of the other section. I held a joint discussion so to say. The Deputy Director was also present. The hon. Member, I hope, would admit that some compromise formula was evolved. The Collector is pursuing the matter in consultation with the Deputy Director of Industries. I do hope that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at which will be satisfactory to both the parties."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Have the Government received any complaint from the members of the Stakenet Fishermen Co-operative Society that large scale contraband fishing is going on which affects their interests? If so, may I know what steps the Government have taken to protect their interests? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not remember to have received any such representation."

Protected water-supply

* 682 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the setting up of sedimentation plant under the scheme for protected water-supply for Kozhikode has been completed;

(*b*) whether the Headquarters Hospital, Kozhikode, is now having the benefit of water-supply;

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(c) whether house connexions have been given, and if so, when;

(d) what will be the daily supply capacity of the plant when completed; and

(e) the average daily need of the town?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The sedimentation tank has been set up but the allied work, viz., the erection of low lift pumps is expected to be completed shortly.

" (b) No, Sir.

" (c) No, Sir.

" (d) The maximum supply capacity of the plant is 20 lakhs gallons of water per day.

" (e) The daily requirement of the Muncipality will not exceed 20 lakhs gallons of water for some years."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know how much the erection of sedimentation plant has cost? Is it not a fact that it was due to the utter incompetence and criminal negligence of the investigating officers, the incurring of additional expenditure has been necessitated? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The work will cost about Rs. 4·4 lakhs. The other matter referred to by the hon. Member has now become past history."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Have the Government enquired into the complaint that the water at Kozhikode is not quite good and that there is some iron in it? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. That is why this sedimentation tank has been set up. Since the preparation of this answer, I understand that the erection of low lift pumps has been completed and it is under test now."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Now, the citizens of Kozhikode get water at least from the main pipes. Before giving house connections, will the Government consider it their prime duty to allow water-supply to the hospital at least which is now denied."

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, the Municipal Council has agreed to supply 10,000 gallons of water to the hospital. As soon as the necessary staff is employed, house connexions will be given and the hospital will also get its supply of water."

* 683 *Q.*—

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Question No. 683 will be taken up on 21st February 1955."